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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hiroaki HASHIGAYA et al.  
Title: REFORMER CONTROLLING  
APPARATUS  
Appl. No.: 09/776,855  
Filing Date: 02/06/2001  
Examiner: Alexa A. Doroshenk  
Art Unit: 1764

**RECEIVED**  
**JUN 11 2003**  
**TC 1700**

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated March 10, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

The amendments presented below are in compliance with the revised amendment format permitted in the Notice from the Office of Patent Legal Administration of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office dated February 10, 2003, and published at 1267 OG 106 on February 25, 2003. Thus, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121(a), (b), (c) and (d) are waived for amendments made in this application to the claims, specification, and drawings.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this document.